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Mexico: Map Coverage Guide

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A Reference Aid

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CR 85-11334
March 1985

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Mexico: Map Coverage Guide

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Preface

Information available as of 1 February 1985 was used in this report.

This guide describes and evaluates the best and most current maps of Mexico held in the OCR Map Services Division. Generally, items selected for inclusion are limited to those that cover the entire country, Many of the maps listed were published by Mexican Government agencies, such as the Secretariat for Planning and Budget, the Secretariat for Communications and Transportation, the General Bureau of Geography, and the Secretariat for Population Settlement and Public Works. Other maps were produced by private organizations such as the National Automobile Association and Editorial F. Trillas S.A.

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Most maps may be borrowed by requesters in the Washington area. When ordering loan maps, requesters should identify them by accession number (e.g., 123456).

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Abbreviations for Organizations Cited More Than Once

ANA	*National Automobile Association (of Mexico)*
DGG	*General Bureau of Geography*

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SAHOP	*Secretariat for Population Settlement and Public Works*
SCT	*Secretariat for Communications and Transportation*
SPP	*Secretariat for Planning and Budget*

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Atlases

The National Atlas of the Physical Environment (285876) was published in 1981 by the Secretariat for Planning and Budget (SPP) in Mexico City. The atlas contains maps at the scale of 1:1,000,000 on 10 subjects plus Landsat coverage at the same scale. Subjects include topography, administration, weather and climate, geology, soils, and tourist attractions of various types.

In 1982 the SPP published an atlas titled *Map of Mexico 1:250,000* (286431), which contains 132 plates of topographic maps covering all of Mexico at the stated scale. The maps have also been issued as separate sheets and are discussed in more detail in the section on topographic maps (see page 3).

The General Bureau of Agriculture published an atlas in 1980 titled *Land Use in the Republic of Mexico* (287102), which indicates 49 categories of land use throughout the country. Each state is mapped at the scale of 1:500,000 or 1:1,000,000.

An Atlas of Health (242935) was published in 1973 by the Secretariat of Health and Welfare. It contains an impressive collection of information in the form of text, maps, and charts that shows and explains the many factors affecting the health of the Mexican population.

In 1980 the SPP began producing a set of atlases on the individual states of Mexico titled *Synthesis of Geography*. Each atlas contains 13 unbound, detailed, thematic maps on topics such as topography, climatology, hydrology, geology, soils, forestry, and agriculture. The scales vary depending on the size of the state and range from 1:250,000 to 1,000,000. The following atlases have been published to date:

State	Accession No.	Scale	Date
Aguascalientes	293892	1:250,000	1981
Baja California	297509	1:1,000,000	1982
Coahuila	297510	1:1,000,000	1982
Colima	293893	1:250,000	1981
Guanajuato	293886	1:500,000	1980
Jalisco	293891	1:1,000,000	1981
México	293894	1:500,000	1981
Morelos	293889	1:250,000	1981
Nayarit	293888	1:500,000	1981
Nuevo León	293887	1:1,000,000	1981
Tamaulipas	297511	1:1,000,000	1982
Tlaxcala	293890	1:250,000	1981
Zacatecas	293885	1:1,000,000	1981

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A Geographic Atlas of the State of Michoacân (274087) was published in 1979 by the National University in Mexico City. It is of excellent quality and provides detailed coverage for a number of subjects related to physical, human, or economic geography. Each thematic map is supplemented by a descriptive text and color photographs. Approximately half of the atlas is devoted to detailed topographic maps of the *municipios* (cities and towns) in Michoacán. They are at the scale of 1:224,000 and show populated places, roads and railroads, drainage, and political boundaries.

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In 1980 the Treasury of the Federal District in Mexico City published the *Album of Cadastral Regions of the City of Mexico and Urban Zones of the Federal District* (289973). This atlas contains detailed maps showing the street pattern and street names for 85 regions of the Federal District. Unfortunately, no street index is provided.

An atlas titled *Routes of Mexico* (287038) contains a number of foldout strip maps covering the country at the scale of 1:250,000. It has an alphabetical listing of towns that gives information on population, altitude, and available accommodations, as well as a description of major points of interest. It was published in 1981 by the National Automobile Association (ANA) in Mexico City.

The Yellow Guide to Mexico City (287040) was published by ANA in 1983. It contains 15 pages of strip maps covering the city at a scale of 1:24,000. The atlas has an index of streets and minor political divisions within the city. Metro stops are indicated on the maps, and a schematic map of the entire Metro system is shown on the atlas cover. Points of interest, major buildings, parks, and important landmarks are indicated on the maps but not listed in the index.

Guidebooks

Two current guidebooks of Mexico are held in the Map Services Division. Both contain a wealth of information on all aspects of travel in Mexico and, with minor variations, are essentially the same. They outline the general history and culture of Mexico and provide descriptions of major physical regions, the road network, and related points of interest. They also describe accommodations, restaurants, and places of entertainment. Probably the best known is *Fodor's Mexico 1985* (299465), published in New York by Fodor's Travel Guides. The second is *Fielding's Mexico 1984* (291549), published by Fielding's Travel Books, also in New York. The major difference between the two is that the print in the Fielding's guide is larger and easier to read.

Two other guides, both published in 1982 in Spanish, are also worthy of mention. Both are titled *The Tourist Guide of the Republic of Mexico* and are high quality publications aimed at the tourist market. One (288298) was published by Red Guide in Mexico City and the other (287004) by the ANA.

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Other Publications

In 1982 the SPP published the *Tenth General Census on Population and Housing 1980*. Volume I consists of 32 sections, each devoted to a state in Mexico. The sections are intended for use with other parts of the 1980 census, and each contains a map of every *municipio* showing Geostatistical Basic Areas, the basic statistical unit of the census. The maps indicate major populated places and identify the 1:50,000 topographic sheets that cover each *municipio*. Each of the 32 sections is cataloged separately by area with individual accession numbers. A second part of the section delineates the Geostatistical Basic Areas within major urban centers.

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Briefing and General Reference Maps

Two CIA-produced maps of Mexico (503497 and 503498) published in 1978 at the scale of 1:4,000,000 (17 by 24 inches) show first-order administrative boundaries, national and state capitals, roads, airfields, and principal ports. Map 503497 also shows shaded relief and spot elevations. In 1981 CIA published two page-size maps of Mexico at the scale of 1:13,000,000 (504704 with shaded relief and 504703 without shaded relief). Both show state boundaries and capitals and major roads and railroads. In 1983 John Bartholomew & Son, Ltd., of Edinburgh, Scotland, produced an excellent map of Mexico (293015) at the scale of 1:3,000,000 (32 x 42 inches) that is suitable for general reference In

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1984 the National Geographic Society produced a comparable map (297530) at the slightly smaller scale of 1:3,803,000 (23 by 34 inches). Both maps show internal administrative boundaries, road classifications, railroads, airports, spot elevations, antiquities, topography, and bathymetry. The Bartholomew map is perhaps more useful in that it uses layer coloring to show elevation and has two insets showing details in and around Mexico City.

Topographic Maps

Approximately 60-65 percent of Mexico is covered by topographic maps at the scale of 1:50,000 in nearly 1,500 sheets published by the General Bureau of Geography (DGG) in Mexico City (210926). In addition to detailed topography, the maps show transportation and communication lines, ground cover, and various other cultural and natural features; they also classify towns and villages by size of population. The maps have contour intervals of 20 meters, show the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid, and are dated from 1971 to 1981. These maps do not cover the southern half of the Mexico-Guatemala border.

Mexico is completely covered by 121 topographic maps (254741) at the scale of 1:250,000 published by the DGG between 1976 and 1982. These sheets were also printed in bound format (286431), as mentioned in the section on atlases. The sheets show lines of communication, ground cover, and various cultural features. The UTM grid is indicated, and the contour interval is 100 meters, with supplementary contours at 50 meters.

The SPP produced a four-sheet topographic map of Mexico in 1979 at the scale of 1:1,000,000 (275110). It shows contour intervals of 200 meters and indicates populated places, major and secondary roads, railroads, and selected types of land use. The magnetic declination and annual magnetic variation are both overprinted on this map.

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Thematic Maps

Administration and Boundaries. *The National Atlas of the Physical Environment* (285876) mentioned on page 1 contains detailed maps showing administrative subdivisions in Mexico. The plates in the atlas are at the scale of 1:1,000,000, and they show administrative units to the *municipio* level. The administrative center of each unit is named.

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In 1969 the US-Mexican Commission for Border Development and Friendship produced a map titled *US-Mexico Border Area* (203986) at a scale of 1:2,500,000, which depicts the international boundary, adjacent populated places, selected roads and railroads, internal administrative boundaries, and ports of entry between the two countries.

In 1981 the Secretariat for Maritime Affairs published a map (288549) of the coastal waters of Mexico titled *Exclusive Economic Zones for the Coasts of Mexico*. It shows only the limit of the economic zone and does not provide any explanation beyond the map title. Presumably, it delineates the areas claimed by Mexico for fishing, oil exploration, and similar economic activities. The scale of the map is 1:3,700,000.

The MSD collection also contains historical maps, charts, and photomaps of the US-Mexican border that deal with various water and flood control projects or with realignment of the boundary due to course changes in the Rio Grande. Most of these items are dated from the late 1920s to the 1940s.

Agriculture, Land Use, and Vegetation. The 1980 atlas titled *Land Use in the Republic of Mexico* (287102) that was mentioned on page 1 portrays 46 categories of land use in Mexico. There are three categories for agriculture, 39 for natural vegetation, two for unused land, and one each for urban areas and water bodies. Each state is shown at either 1:1,000,000 or 1:500,000 scale, and each map is accompanied by a table and graph showing the number of hectares falling into each category.

An eight-sheet map titled *Map of Soils and Vegetation* (286885) at the scale of 1:1,000,000 was published by the DGG in 1981. The map is similar to the plates in the land use atlas mentioned above, but it covers all of the country in eight large sheets instead of showing one state per page as the atlas does. The soils and vegetation categories are depicted by color tints, and each has an explanation of the interaction of soil, vegetation, and climate. A map titled *Actual Soil Use* (287104) was published in 1981 by the Commission for the National Hydraulic Plan in Mexico City. It shows areas of irrigated and nonirrigated croplands and land used for pasture and nonagricultural purposes (i.e., woodlands and urban areas). This map does not have a scale indicated. Another map, titled *Location of Irrigation Districts* (287106), was published in 1982 by the General Bureau of Irrigation Districts and Units in Mexico City. It is at the scale of 1:3,500,000, shows the locations of irrigation districts, and identifies each district office. It also locates catchment basins throughout the country. 25X1 25X1

A small map of Mexico titled *Organizational Types for Agricultural Space and Agrarian Structures* (237876) was published by Bordas (Paris) in 1973. It divides the country into zones of intensive and extensive economies and indicates the types and locations of major plantations. Irrigation districts are also listed, along with the main crop and number of hectares in each. No scale is shown on the map. 25X1 25X1

The ninth edition of *The Modern Geography of Mexico* was published in 1980 by Editorial F. Trillas S.A. in Mexico City. It contains four maps depicting the growing areas for 11 major crops and graphs showing the crop production in each state from 1950 to 1976. The maps have no scale indicated. The crops mapped are wheat and hay (274699); peanuts, sesame, and tobacco (274850); lemons, rice, and tomatoes (274851); and sugar cane, cotton, and pineapple (274852). An earlier work by Editorial Trillas titled *Geographic Synthesis of Mexico* was published in 1972. It is a set of six maps (222264) that show areas of cultivation for 16 major crops. 25X1

In 1982 the World Bank produced a map (289976) of Mexico titled *Agricultural Marketing of Perishables* at the scale of 1:8,000,000, which indicates the major crops grown in each state. Also identified are irrigated areas and the five major marketing centers for various agricultural regions. 25X1 25X1

In the 1950s the Secretariat for Water Resources published a series of detailed maps (127096) of Mexico showing vegetation, water resources, and agricultural patterns. The series consists of about 600 sheets

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and is at the scale of 1:100,000. Coverage is approximately 95 percent complete, and although the information is over 25 years old, it may be of some value in the absence of more current data.

Climate. *The Atlas of Health* (242935) mentioned on page 1 includes 25 pages of maps and text on various aspects of climate in Mexico and their effect on human health. Maps portray temperature ranges, frost, cloudiness, precipitation, and humidity. Wind roses and a discomfort index are also provided.

In 1981 the SPP produced an eight-sheet climate map (283829) of the country at the scale of 1:1,000,000. The map uses a modified Koppen classification to present a detailed survey of the climate of Mexico. The base map on which the climatic information is overprinted shows populated places, major lines of transportation, political boundaries, and topography using contour lines of 200 meters. The SPP published another eight-sheet map in 1981 that shows precipitation (297740). It indicates precipitation in millimeters by isohyets and colored patterns.

Health. *The Atlas of Health* (242935) mentioned above presents an exhaustive survey of many sociological factors affecting health, including population density, climate, nutrition, economics, education, and housing and services, as well as showing maps of mortality rates, morbidity or sickness, birth rates, and medical facilities. The atlas also contains maps and charts that provide more details on important aspects of health for selected states.

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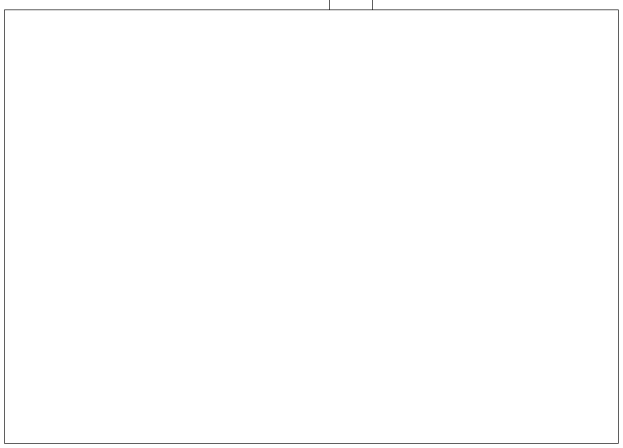

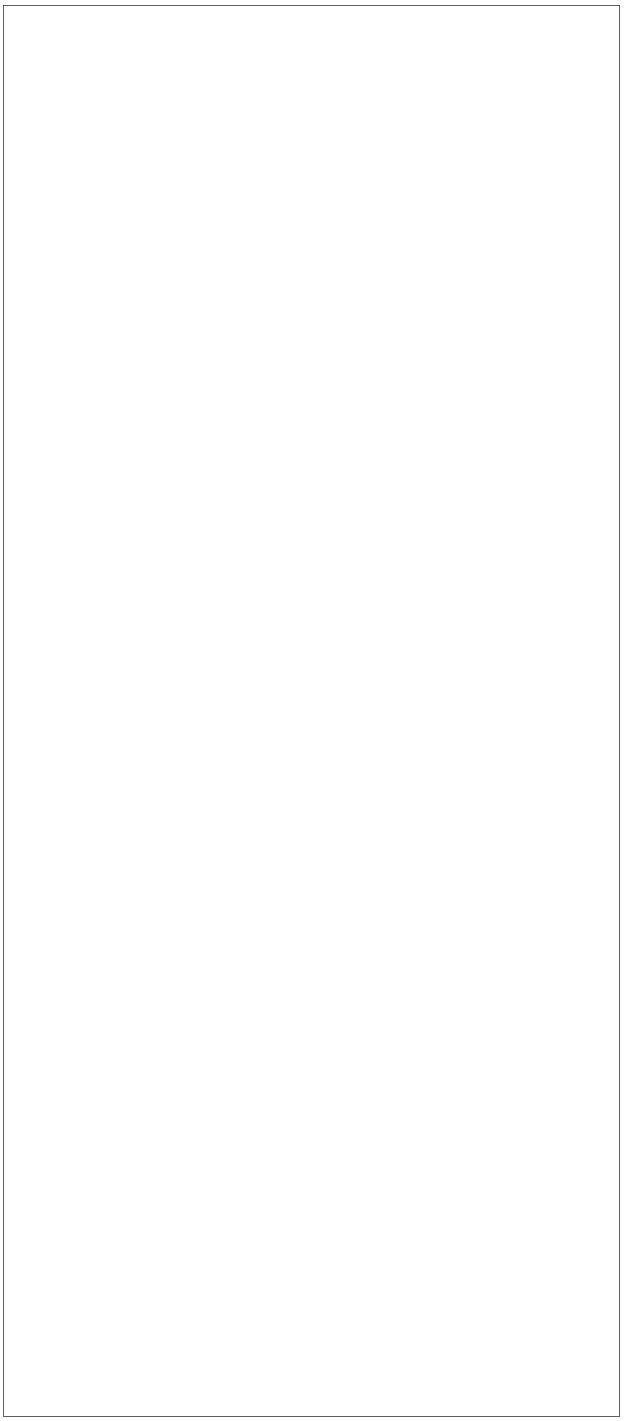

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Minerals and Geology. The Office of the Director General of Mines published three maps in 1981 that name and locate the principal production centers for various metals (287828) and minerals (287829) and show the locations of associated processing plants (297829). These maps have no scale indicated. The maps of metal and mineral production are accompanied by tables that give production statistics by state and *municipio* for the years 1979 and 1980. Graphs accompanying the map of processing plants provide company names, plant capacities, types of treatment, and the form of finished products. A separate graph gives annual production figures for 27 minerals from 1891 to 1980. Also available is a 1975 metallogenetic chart of Mexico (259372) at the scale of 1:2,000,000 that was produced by the Geological Society of America. This map uses a combination of symbols and color to depict metallogenetic environments, types of ore deposits, and their geologic age.

A small map at the scale of 1:12,500,000 published by the Association of Mining Engineers, Metallurgists, and Geologists of Mexico is titled *Exploration of Coal Reserves in Mexico* (289942). It locates and names 35 coal-mining regions and identifies the type of coal mined at each. The date of information on the map is July 1976.

An eight-sheet map of the geology of Mexico (286884) was published by the DGG in 1981 at the scale of 1:1,000,000. It portrays the geologic history and rock types of the country in detail through the use of color tints and symbols.

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Peoples. In 1965 the Geographic Institute of the National University produced a set of four maps (187445) at the scale of 1:4,000,000 titled *Distribution of Urban Population at Altitudes Between 0-200, 200-1,000, 1,000-2,000, and 2,000-3,000 Meters.* It locates and names populated places and indicates the population of each. Altitude is indicated by color tints.

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Several ethnic and linguistic maps of Mexico are available in the MSD collection. A map published by Editorial F. Trillas in 1980 at the scale of 1:6,200,000 is titled *Ethnographic Map of the Republic of Mexico* (274698) and shows the locations of 49 tribal groups. A 1967 Trillas map shows the 14 principal linguistic groups in the country (187236). It has no scale indicated. The General Bureau of Statistics produced a set of two maps (199120) at the scale of 1:2,550,000 that shows linguistics in Mexico based on the 1960 census. The first is titled *Map of Bilingual Indigenous Population*, shows density at the *municipio* level, and has enlarged inset maps of the more densely populated areas. The second map is similar in format and is titled *Map of Monolingual Population.* Another map titled *Principal Indian Languages* was published by the University of Arizona in 1966 at the scale of 1:5,800,000. It outlines and names major tribal areas (181376).

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Power. A set of 13 detailed maps (263361) published by the Federal Electric Commission in 1975 is titled *Generating Plants and Service Areas.* The maps locate all major power plants in the country, and accompanying text provides the plant names, kilowatt capacity, and types of generators used in each.

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Railroads. The Secretariat for Communications and Transportation published two railroad maps in 1982. The first, *Railroad Network of the Republic of Mexico* (287843), is at the scale of 1:3,000,000. It indicates active lines, those under construction, and distances in kilometers between key points. The second map is titled simply *National Railroad Network* (287842). It shows the same data as the previous map but also shows the boundaries of the 22 railroad districts. Another product of the SCT is titled *Volume of Cargo Traffic* and consists of a pair of schematic maps (262846) that show the gross and net monthly tonnages carried by various rail lines throughout Mexico. The maps have no scale indicated.

Roads. Several road maps dated 1983 are held in the MSD collection. The best of these (295279) was published by the SCT and is titled *Tourist Road Map*. It shows a detailed primary and secondary road network and indicates such features as parks, service stations, ferries, and monuments. It also has an enlarged inset map of the area around Mexico City, which extends to the city of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico. Another inset shows distances and estimated driving times throughout the country. The reverse side of the map shows a plan of Mexico City and six other important tourist centers. A table of tourist information lists accommodations and services available at 85 locations.

Telecommunications. A 1980 map (287833) published by the SCT provides an overall view of existing communications systems in Mexico, including microwave, telegraph, telex, maritime radio, telephone, and television. An inset map provides more detail in the Mexico City area. The map has no scale indicated.

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A map of Mexico dated 1965 (196492) at the scale of 1:9,000,000 indicates favorable areas for locating underground water supplies. It was produced by the National University in Mexico City and employs shading to highlight favorable areas. A simple map of watersheds (196492) is also available that indicates the direction and destination of the flow of ground water of the major watersheds of Mexico.

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Mexico City. In 1981 SAHOP published an eight-sheet map (295289) of Mexico City at the scale of 1:25,000. It includes most of the suburban areas; shows detailed street patterns, road categories, and contours at intervals of 50 meters; and is accompanied by a map supplement that locates over 1,000 points of interest. Unfortunately, the map does not have a street index.

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Three other high-quality maps of Mexico City are available at smaller scales and do not cover the entire Federal District. All are dated 1981 and have street

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indexes on the reverse. One was published by Red Guide at the scale of 1:32,500 and is titled *City of Mexico* (280637). Another, at the scale of 1:33,000 (274498), was published by Librería Patria S.A., and the third was published by ANA at the scale of 1:40,000 (262659). All have a common deficiency in that they are extremely detailed and somewhat difficult to read because of the relatively small scales that must be used to provide complete coverage in one sheet of this large urban area.

Guadalajara. Red Guide published a detailed street map of Guadalajara (286444) in 1981 at the scale of 1:32,500. It is accompanied by a street index and information on history, important sights, and tourist accommodations.

Monterrey. A map titled *Plan of the City of Monterrey* (275673) was produced in 1980 by Arturo Gómez Leal of Monterrey at the scale of 1:20,000. The map identifies the *municipios* and the barrios of the city and has a detailed street index.

Puebla. SAHOP published a detailed map of Puebla (295612) in 1980 at the scale of 1:50,000. The center of town is shown in greater detail as an inset. An index to major points of interest accompanies the map.

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León. A map of León (295508) was produced by SAHOP at the scale of 1:34,000 in 1978. It has a brief index of points of interest and a detailed inset of the town center but does not have a street index. A six-sheet map of León (266723) at the scale of 1:5,000 was produced in 1974 by the DGG. It is extremely detailed and shows the shape and height of individual buildings. A street index is provided, along with a list of points of interest.

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Tijuana. SAHOP produced a map of Tijuana (295503) in 1980 at the scale of 1:50,000. It has a detailed inset of the center of town and an index of places of interest.

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Acapulco. In 1977 Red Guide produced a tourist map of Acapulco at the scale of 1:20,000 (262299). The map gives street names and identifies points of interest, including airline offices, nightclubs, hotels, and other accommodations.

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